



# AETC News Clips

## Randolph AFB, Texas



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### AF project aims to speed diagnoses

Web Posted: 09/22/2005 12:00 AM CDT

**Cindy Tumiel**  
**Express-News Staff Writer**

In a military world marked by high-tech weaponry and satellite reconnaissance, a soldier with sniffles remains one of the biggest worries facing military commanders in the field.

Is a fever simply a symptom of the common cold? Or a more menacing infectious agent like avian flu that could sicken thousands of troops? Or is it evidence of a surreptitious enemy attack employing biological weapons?

Not so long ago, getting the answer required sending throat swabs to central labs that were hundreds or thousands of miles away, where microbiologists would make cultures that could take days to deliver a definitive diagnosis.

Now a research project at Lackland AFB is looking at ways to equip military doctors with speedy new tests to diagnose infectious diseases.

"This is not only going to be able to help the battlefield medic make better decisions on treating a patient, it also is going to help commanders make better decisions about disposition of their forces," Air Force Surgeon General Lt. Gen. George Taylor Jr. said Wednesday in San Antonio.

Taylor was one of the dignitaries attending the dedication of a 3,000-square-foot building at Lackland where the Advanced Diagnostics Laboratory project will be housed.

Here, private companies and military researchers will test new rapid-diagnostic equipment, using recruits from basic training to help perfect the tools.

The project is managed by True Research Foundation, a San Antonio based nonprofit corporation that helps military scientists and private-sector businesses collaborate to develop and test technologies.

Right now, the state-of-the-art equipment is about the size of a big breadbox that a battlefield medic can carry in a backpack. It identifies infectious agents by employing special solutions, or assays, that can recognize the genetic signatures of different viruses and bacteria and deliver a diagnosis in about 90 minutes.

Researchers are trying to develop tools that will allow them to recognize more of these genetic signatures, including agents that may be used in biological weapons, said Elizabeth Walter, director of the new laboratory.

"A lot of potential problems can be identified and you don't have to wait to find out, is this another case of influenza or is this an agent that has been intentionally released?"

*San Antonio Express News*

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The long-term goal of the project, though, is to make the portable laboratory smaller and smaller and deliver results in seconds, not minutes, said Brig. Gen. David G. Young, commander of Wilford Hall Medical Center.

"We are talking about getting it down to the microchip size," Young said. "We can start treatment pretty much right away if we know what it is. This is what gets us the information quickly."



TOM REEL/STAFF

Brig. Gen. David G. Young, commander of Wilford Hall Medical Center, discusses portable diagnosis gear developed at Lackland AFB.

**San Antonio Express News**  
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### **Assault charge dropped against Air Force Academy grad**

09/22/2005

Associated Press

An indecent assault charge has been dropped against an Air Force Academy graduate accused of assaulting female classmates at the Colorado school, according to officials at Randolph Air Force Base.

A separate rape charge is still pending against 1st Lt. Joseph Harding, but it is in legal limbo, shelved by an Air Force judge because a civilian mental health counselor for the accuser, Jessica Brakey, has refused to release records of their sessions.

Brakey's lawyer, Wendy Murphy of Boston, said the request by the other alleged victim that her case be dropped should not determine whether prosecutors proceed.

She noted that Brakey wants Harding to go to trial, but her case is on hold despite her wishes.

Military prosecutors are appealing the ruling in Brakey's case to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, a civilian panel in Washington.

Briggs said Harding remains on duty at Columbus AFB, Miss., while his case proceeds.

Harding, a pilot trainee, was accused of raping Brakey in 2000 and assaulting the other cadet in 1999.

Brakey, who has spoken publicly on a number of occasions about the case, was among dozens of female cadets who said they were ignored or punished after telling military superiors they had been sexually assaulted.

Their stories ignited a scandal in 2003 that led to several investigations and the ouster of top commanders at the academy.

*San Antonio Express News*

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### Small-plane crash in Atascosa leaves 1 dead, 1 injured

Web Posted: 09/22/2005 12:00 AM CDT

**Zeke MacCormack**  
**Express-News Staff Writer**

A passer-by saved an injured San Antonio woman from the burning wreckage of a small plane that crashed Wednesday in Atascosa County, but a flight instructor died in the accident, authorities said.

The Department of Public Safety had not notified the instructor's next of kin by Wednesday night.

Injured was Taryn Robinson, 22, of San Antonio, who was reported in critical condition at Brooke Army Medical Center with third-degree burns, according to a report by DPS Trooper Lucian Ebrom.

The 2004 Diamond single-engine plane was owned by Flying Monsters Inc. and leased to Stinson Flying School, based at Stinson Municipal Airport in San Antonio, Ebrom said.

Officials said the plane left Stinson at 10:46 a.m. and was flying northeast over Atascosa County when it clipped a power line about 11:30 a.m.

The report indicates the instructor was at the controls when the crash occurred. The plane plummeted to the ground just off FM 476 about a quarter-mile north of Pleasanton.

The craft came to rest on its top, and flames from the wreck sparked a brush fire.

David Soward, the chief deputy of the Atascosa County Sheriff's Department, said Stinson Flying School staff told him the plane carried their instructor and a student. School officials declined comment Wednesday.

An unidentified passer-by pulled Robinson from the plane as flames engulfed it, Soward said.

Flickering lights at the Tractor City store by the crash site led worker Cindy Carter outside, where she saw "a big black ball of smoke and the flames" nearby.

She drove to the scene, but was barred access by emergency responders already there.

"You couldn't even see the plane, you could only see the wheels sticking up through the flames," said Carter, 45. "We immediately thought no one could have survived, that whoever was in there was surely dead."

Firefighters from Pleasanton, Poteet and Jourdanton fought the brush fire, which destroyed about five acres.

*San Antonio Express News*

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## Air Force Times



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September 21, 2005

### Paralegal pleads guilty

By [Rod Hafemeister](#)

*Times staff writer*

SAN ANTONIO — Staff Sgt. Ramona Greiner, the paralegal whose affair with an Air Force lawyer led to a plot to have the lawyer's wife murdered, pleaded guilty Tuesday to all three charges against her.

Greiner was charged with conspiracy to commit premeditated murder, solicitation to commit murder and dereliction of duty for failing to maintain a professional relationship with the lawyer, Capt. Barry Brown.

Greiner pled under a pre-trial agreement that likely precludes her getting the maximum sentence of life without parole.

The sentencing phase of her court-martial continues Wednesday.

Brown, pleaded guilty to similar charges last week and was sentenced to 18 years in prison and dismissal from the Air Force.

Greiner and Brown were both assigned to the 37th Training Wing Staff Judge Advocate office at Lackland Air Force Base.

According to evidence stipulated as part of the guilty pleas, the pair became involved in February and by mid-March were contemplating ways to remove Brown's wife, Irene, as an obstacle to their relationship.

In admitting her guilt, Greiner said she repeatedly asked Brown about the possibility of divorcing Irene, but that he repeatedly said he "wanted to get rid of her."

"Capt. Brown wanted Irene killed. I wanted to make him happy, so I wanted it too," Greiner said.

Greiner asked a civilian friend to arrange the murder, with Brown offering \$25,000 for the hit. But the civilian instead went to police and worked undercover with Air Force investigators, resulting in recorded phone conversations about the plot and a video of a March 25 meeting in which Brown made a down payment for the murder.

Brown and Greiner were taken into custody following the meeting.

Read the complete story in the Oct. 3 edition of Air Force Times, on newsstands Sept. 26.

***Air Force Times***  
***Daily News Roundup***  
**22 Sep 05 Edition**